



Confessions of a former LINGUIST LISTer:

Technology training and
professional development
at the discipline's largest
online resource

Andrea L Berez
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
andrea.berez@hawaii.edu



Today's goals:

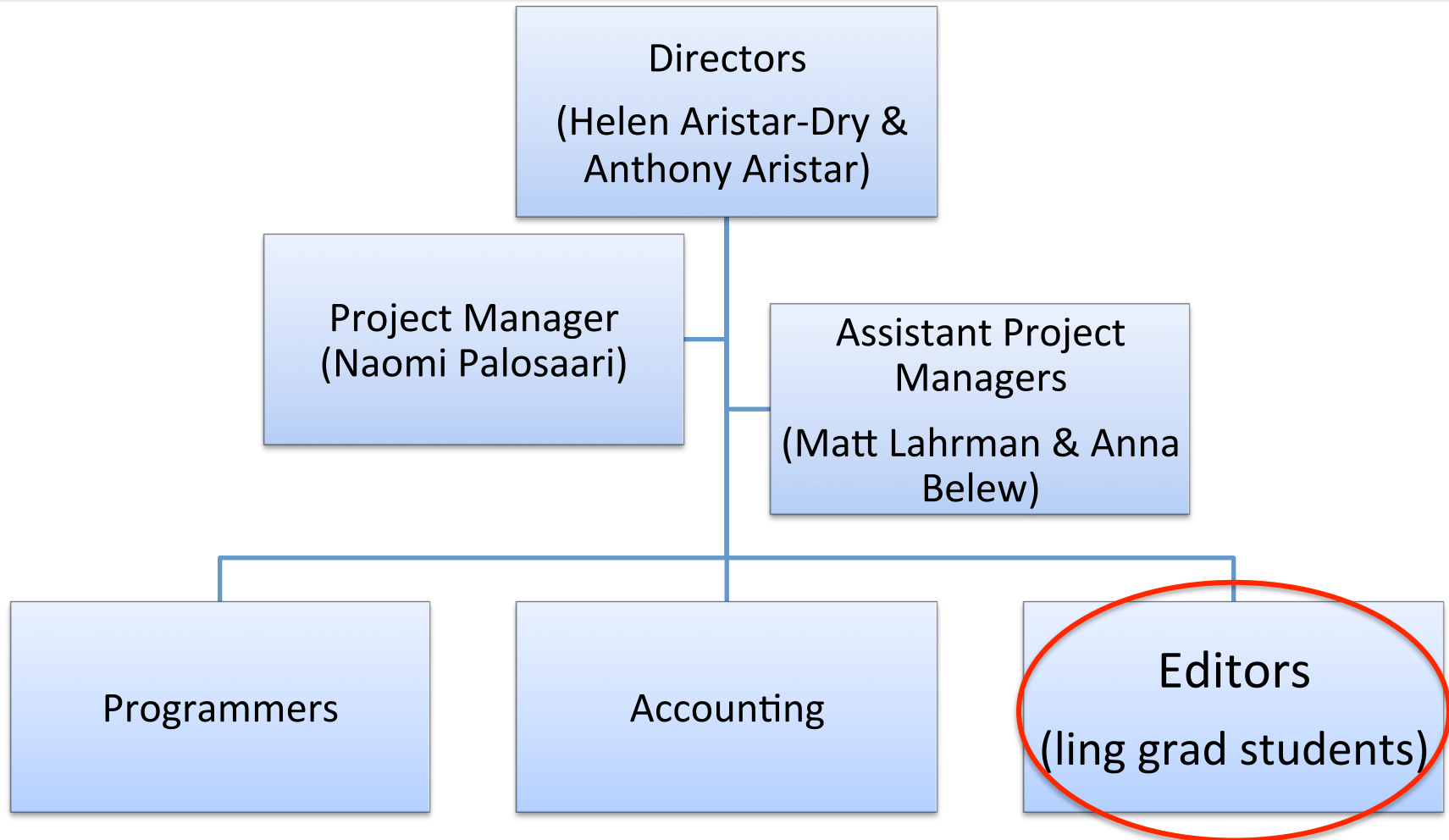
- Overview of the activities of LL employees
- Trace my career path from LINGUIST to a tenure-track position
- Results of survey of LL's role in
 - Technology training
 - General professional development



Org struc slide



Organizational structure





Typical Activities of LL Editors

- List and Website maintenance:
 - Editing your postings before publishing on the daily email list
 - Corresponding with you on questions
 - Upkeep of the linguistlist.org website & database
- Technology learned & used:
 - Unix (past), MakeIssue, HTML, CSS, javascript, SQL, ColdFusion, database principles



Typical Activities of LL Editors

- Research “Project Teams”
 - Tasks relating to grant-funded special projects
 - E-MELD & E-MELD School of Best Practice
 - ODIN
 - GOLD
 - DATA
 - LL-MAP
 - Multi-Tree
- Some students are Team Leaders



Typical Activities of LL Editors

- Research “Project Teams”
- Technology & concepts learned & used:
 - Standards (e.g. ISO codes, Best practices in digital language data preservation)
 - GIS
 - ontologies
 - in-house software
- Posters later by Brent Miller, Justin Petro, Georgina Brown, Christine Evans, Brent Woo, Danielle St. Jean, Elyssa Winzeler



Typical Activities of LL Editors

- Occasional very special opportunities:
 - Fieldwork (Alaska, Mexico)
 - International meetings/conferences
 - Hosting international guests
- Regular attendance at LSA
 - Public office hours



My experiences: Timeline

- Jan 2003: Began MA at Wayne State
- Sept 2003: Hired by LL
 - Calls & Conferences Editor, E-MELD
- 2004-2006: Member of DATA project (Alaska)
- 2006: Began PhD at UCSB
- 2007-2010: Continued fieldwork in Alaska
- June 2011: Completed PhD
- August 2011: Joined faculty of UH
 - Asst Prof of Language Documentation & Conservation
 - Director of Kaipuleohone digital language archive



My experiences: LL gave me...

- Specialized knowledge
 - General technology standards, software, programming
 - Best practices for digital language documentation & preservation
- Early opportunities for professional behavior at MA level
 - Fieldwork
 - Grant-funded projects
 - Interacting with professionals as a “professional”
 - Conference presentations
 - Publications

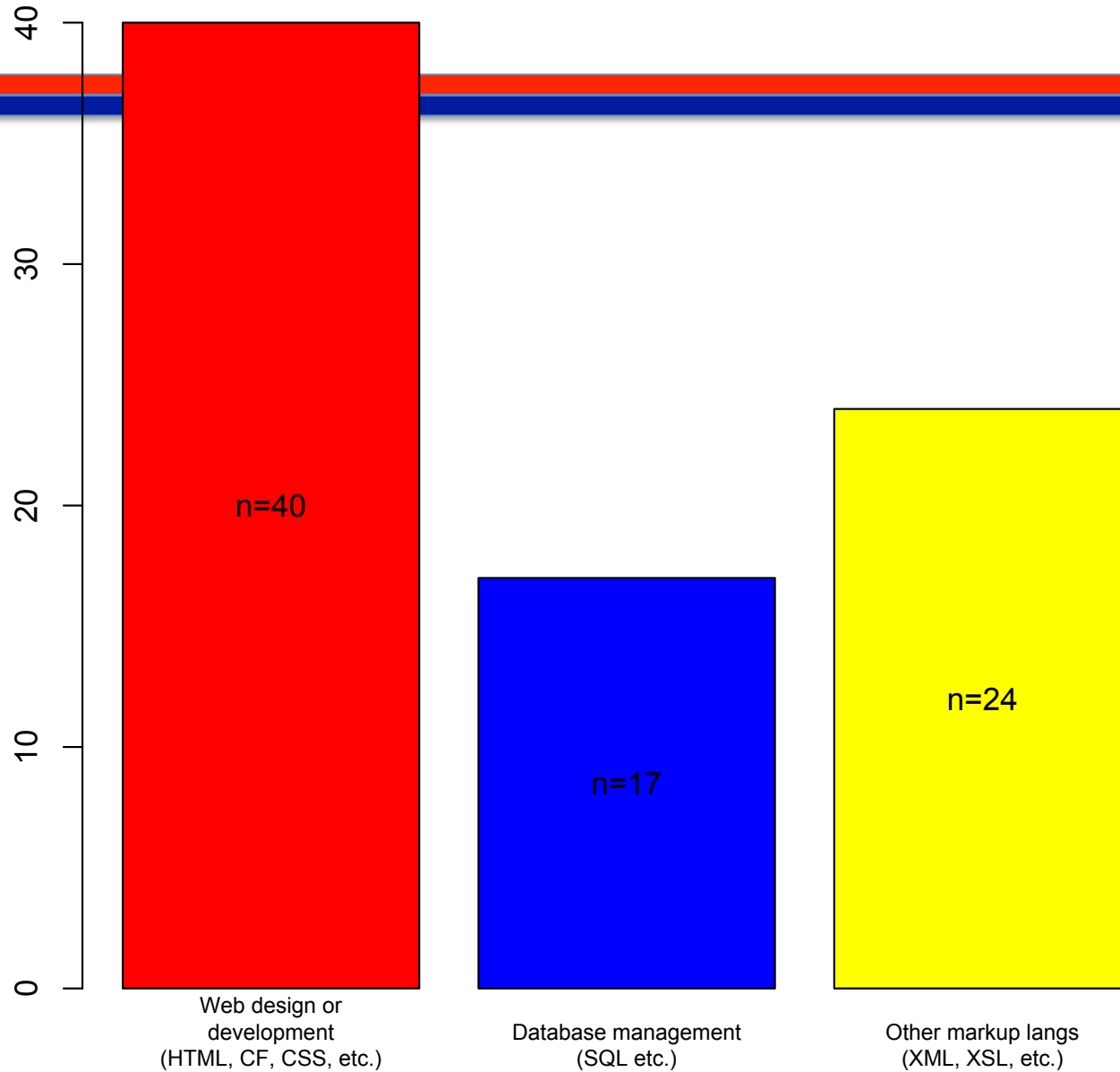


Don't take my word for it!

- Online survey of 53 current & former LL employees
- Most work(ed) at LL 2-3 years
- Most are/were linguistics grad students concurrently
- 100% use(d) technology on a daily basis at work

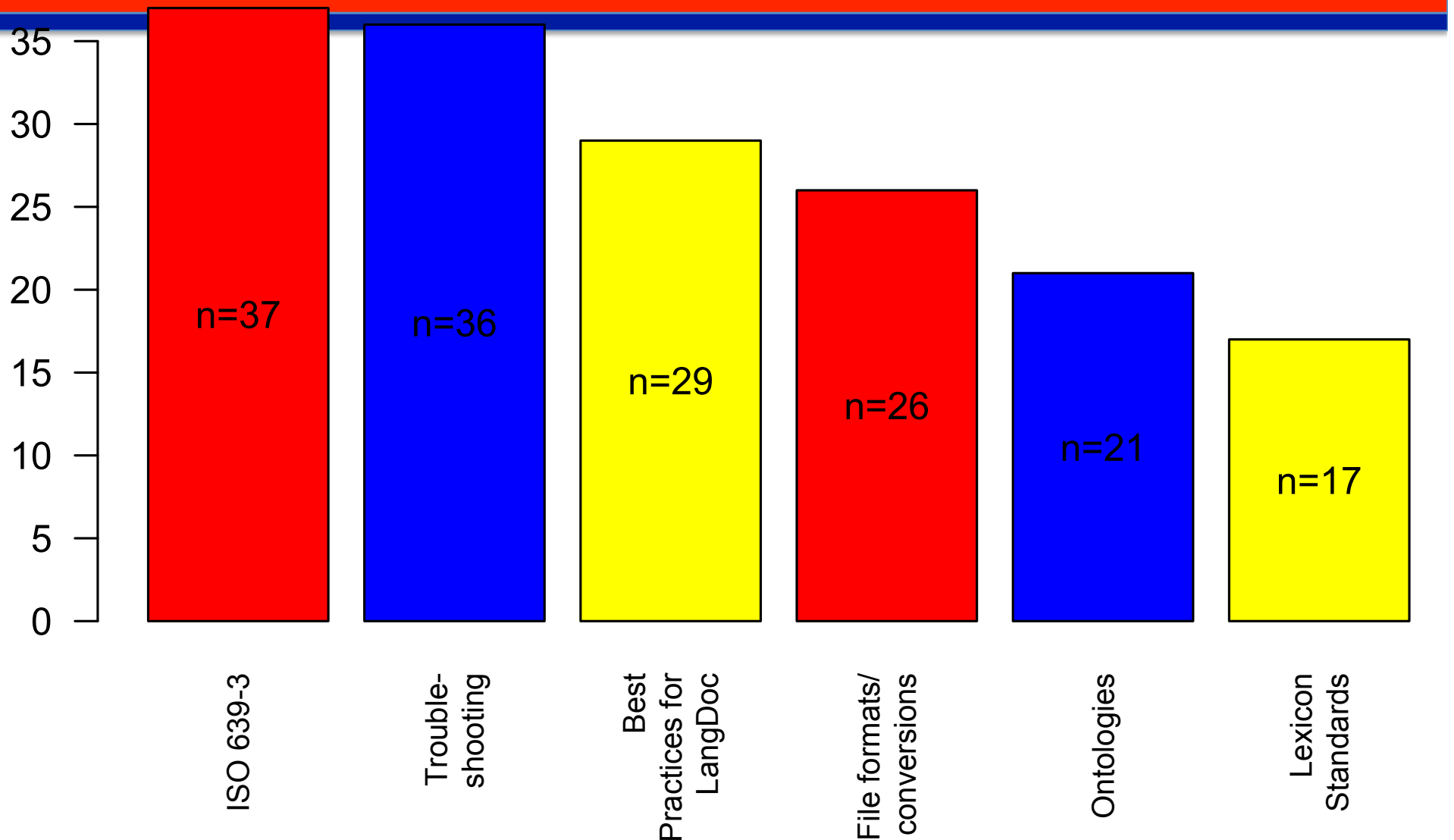


In your job at LL, did you do the following kinds of programming?



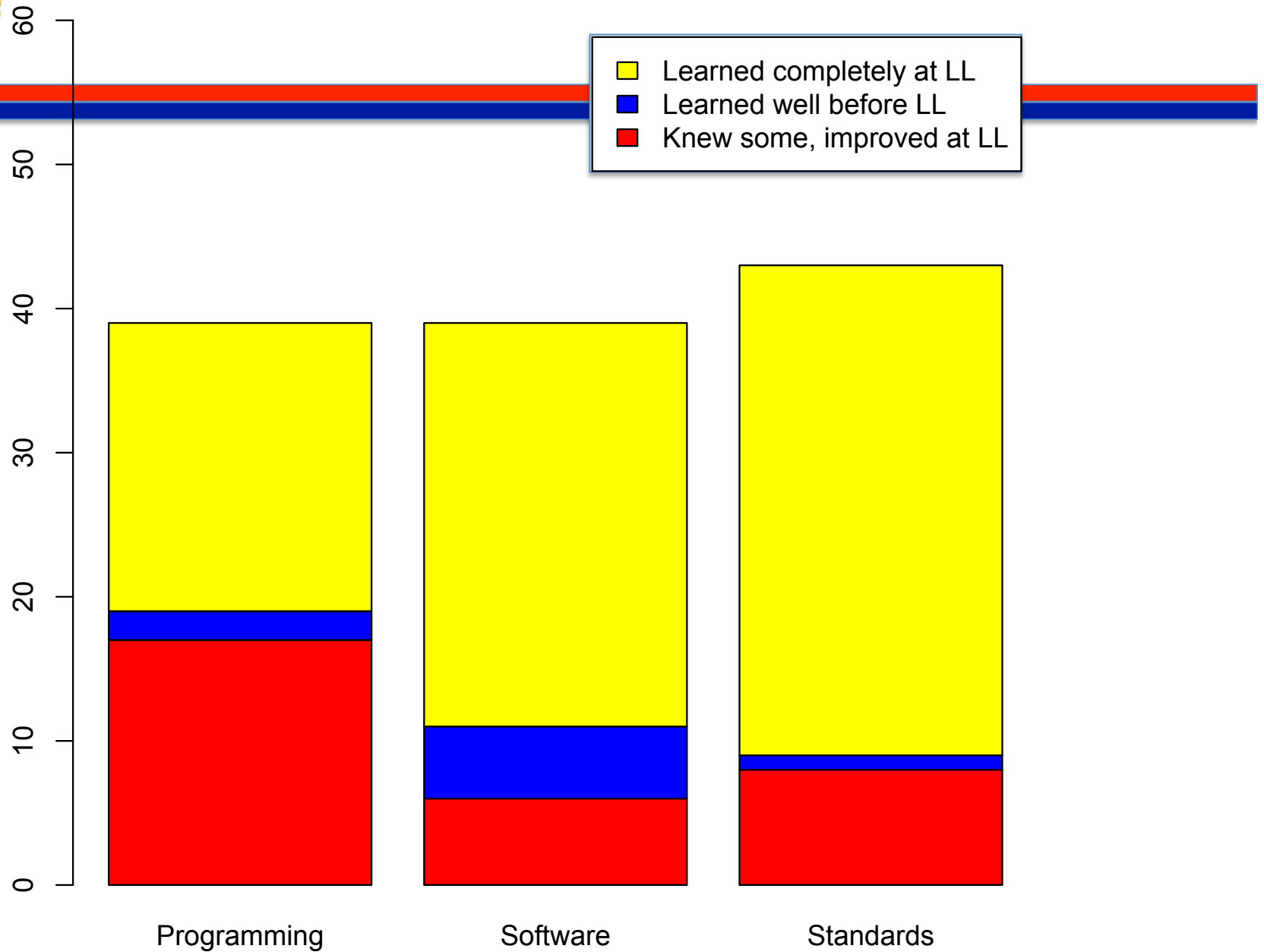


In your job at LL, which of the following standards or general concepts did you use?





Did you learn the following skills during your job at LL?



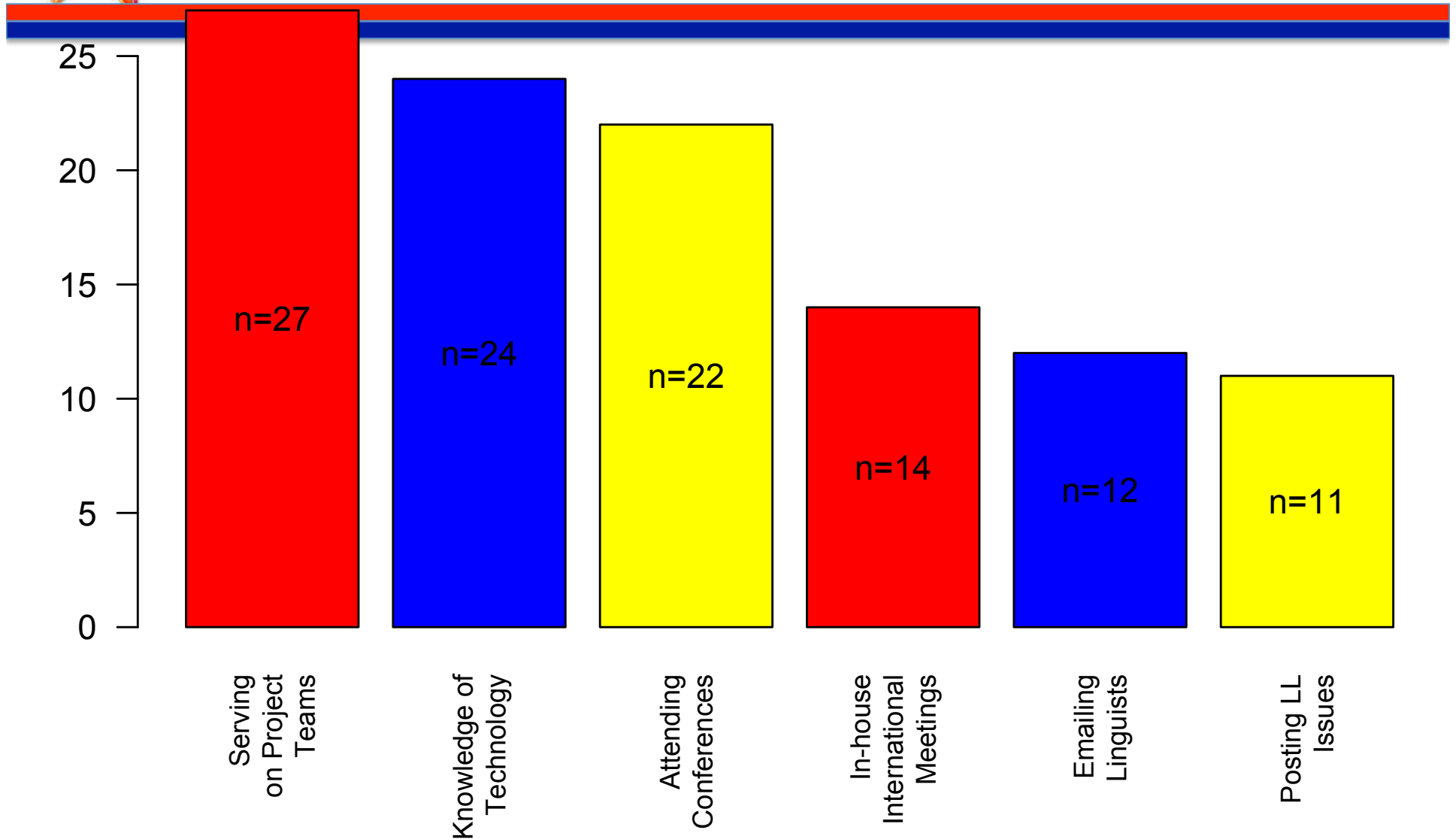


Schooling & Career

- 69% of former LL employees went on for more schooling in linguistics
 - Of those, 91% received funding for PhD
- 92% of former employees say LL played a role in their professional development
 - 85% say LL was “influential” or “highly influential”
- Where are they now?
 - 10 PhD students, 3 postdocs, 10 related industry jobs, 3 professors (...)



Which of the following LL activities had a high impact on your professional development?





Quotes

“It's a difficult few years that graduate assistants spend at LINGUIST List, but I think it does well to prepare you for the real world. The level of multi-tasking is high, where a single person can be part of [a lot of] activities at once ...It can be high stress, but you get through it and learn from it. Definitely a great experience!”



Quotes

“LINGUIST List set me apart and changed my thinking about education in general. Most undergrads are focused on getting As. I was focused on preparing conference presentations, coauthoring papers, and developing content that would be useful to fellow linguists. The transition to grad school actually pressured me to think less about these professional development experiences than I had previously - the opposite of a typical transition.”



Quotes

“Without LL I may not have gone to grad school at all, or gotten funded for grad school, or gotten the job I did after grad school. My life, in short, would be completely different. That'd be a shame.”



*Send us your
promising
undergrads!!*



Thank you!

**Special thanks to Helen
& Tony, Naomi Palosaari,
and the current and former
LL employees who
participated in the survey.**